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tion to civil proceedings, and which, as he says, he has selected "to form the subject of his work on account of its practical importance and unusual difficulty."

Starting from a maxim couched in half a dozen words, he considers the elaborate rules "developed out of the multiplicity of controversies coming before the courts with a thousand minute shades of difference." The decisions of England, India and America are all laid under tribute to elucidate the principles laid down, and the French and Roman jurists have not been overlooked in tracing these principles to their source.

A fairly full index contributes to the utility of the book as a work of reference. The style is clear, concise and attractive, so far as it belongs to the author, although the enunciation of principles often has been left to the *ipsissima verba* of the judges or lawyers from whom he cites constantly and copiously. While the book is not likely to be thumbed over by the every-day case-law practitioner, it is one that commends itself to the lawyer who believes that law should be studied as science as well as practised as an art. It is certainly a most valuable contribution to legal literature.

EDWARD P. ALLINSON.

PRACTICE IN ATTACHMENT OF PROPERTY FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK. By GEORGE W. BREEDNER. Albany, N. Y.: Matthew Bender, Publisher. 1895.

It is somewhat surprising to find that proceedings in attachment under the New York Civil Code are attended with so many pitfalls for the unwary as to call for a separate treatise upon the rules and practice governing such measures. An examination, however, of the code and of the decisions in the voluminous practice reports, justifies the author's contention that a book upon this subject, covering the latest amendments to the code and reported cases, is a necessity. So far as can be judged, the work has been thoroughly and conscientiously done. There are about six hundred citations, most of them from the New York Reports of the last ten years. The

arrangement is simple and consistent. There is also an appendix containing eighty-eight forms. The book should be of service to that busy class of commercial lawyers who are invariably called upon to decide the most difficult points of practice at a moment's notice.

W. H. L.

SYNOPSIS OF THE LAW OF CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS. By JOHN B. MINOR, LL.D., Professor of Common and Statute Law in the University of Virginia. Richmond: Printed for the Author. 1894.

The object of this book, as stated in the preface, is to prepare the student "to *enter upon* the practice of the law in the criminal courts." Perhaps this is rather a large claim to be made for any single volume, particularly one of only three hundred odd pages.

But if, as he is advised to do, the student uses it only in connection with a careful reading of the standard text-writers and of the leading cases; if, in short, he regards it simply as an outline to be filled in, he will doubtless find it a very useful adjunct to his studies—a guiding thread through the labyrinths of the more voluminous treatises.

The seven chapters treat, respectively, of: the general nature of crimes and punishments; persons capable of committing crimes and amenable to punishment; the several degrees of guilt; the several crimes, with their respective punishments; certain general principles touching crimes and punishments; the means of preventing offences; and the method of punishing offences.

The idea of a synopsis is followed throughout; and, though the system of divisions and sub-divisions is a trifle confusing, the book is, upon the whole, to be commended, not only for clearness and condensation, but for careful and scientific arrangement. The time-honored and indispensable definitions are set forth, with frequent citations to the fountain-heads of the law; but the illustrative cases are fewer than might be